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Red Csepel Island was perhaps the most awful. However, not an inch of ground was empty on the former St Imre Square. This immense area was filled with workers and their families, who took part in the procession. If the scenes which took place there were reported to Minister of Culture Revai, he must not have been pleased.

In the city park, the procession starting out of the Regnum Church was disturbed by a band of young hoodlums. Two gray-uniformed policemen (local, not security police) tried to protect the hoodlums, whereupon a number of young workers surrounded the two policemen and forcibly removed them. This was the only disturbance of the day. In all other parts of the city the participants in the processions, which included many Protestants and Jews, did not react to the provocations.

That night the liquidation of the monasteries and cloisters began in Eger, Veszprem, Zirc, Szeged, and other cities. In some places the monks and sisters were simply put out into the street. In other places they were loaded on trucks and transported to Munkacs [Hungarian city now in the USSR], to be held in a camp behind barbed wires. Others were taken to the camps at Dunabogdany and Nyiregyhazaa.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES CLOSED --- New York Riportok Es Hirek Magyarorszagrol,
1 Jul 50

Under the guidance of Minister of Culture Joseph Revai, the closing of the Catholic churches in Hungary is in full swing.

On 18 June, armed terrorists of the security police invaded the Franciscan church in the Belvaros, and all worshippers had to show their identification cards. Many persons who protested were arrested and carried away.

In Szent Gotthard, the nuns were given 5 minutes to pack their belongings. They stayed in the chapel praying, were dragged out by the security police, and pushed into trucks. The Szent Gotthard Church was the first in Hungary to be closed.

In Boldogkovaralja near Kassa there were only two nuns in the town. The entire population of the town cried when the security police carried the sisters away.

The security police also occupied the Manresa, a Jesuit institution in Zugliget [a residential section of Budapest]. The house is now being rebuilt to house 17 detention cells.

On 19 June a large crowd gathered in front of the cloister of the English Misses (Angol Kisazonyok) on Vaci Street, Budapest, when it became known that the sisters had been carried away. The people kneeled down in the open street, and although the police dispersed the demonstrators they came back again. In view of the size of the demonstration, the church was reopened and then the crowd began bringing candles and flowers in enormous quantities. As for the English Misses, it was rumored that on the evening of 18 June they had barricaded the house, but the security police broke through the barricade and carried the sisters away.

On the evening of 19 June the Franciscan fathers sang their last litany in the church on Margit Boulevard, Budapest, but the worshippers stayed in the church late into the night, praying and singing hymns, until the fathers came out and begged them to leave. That night the Franciscans were deported.

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The Jesuit fathers -- the special target of the Reds -- were transported away on the night of 18 June, and on the following Monday their church on Krady (formerly Jozsef) Street was closed, with armed security police standing at the entrance. When this became known in the city, the Catholics came to the church in large, excited groups. Despite the fact that the police dispersed the crowd repeatedly, still more people came. Finally the government had to give in and on Tuesday the church was reopened. The crowd which came into the reopened church was record-breaking. One could get in only after standing in line for a long time. Within the church candles were lit by the hundreds and the altars and statues were covered with flowers.

In the church of the Capucine Order on Fo Street and in the Dominican church on Thokoly Street, similarly huge crowds were present before the churches were closed. The security police did not dare to touch the church in Csepel Island because of the threatening attitude which the workers showed on Corpus Christi Day.

The arrested priests and sisters were carried away in trucks with drawn curtains. For the most part they were scattered among the various prisons and internment camps and some were deported to the east. Patrol cars of the security police roamed the cities and towns, hunting down the fugitives. In Budapest it is rumored that only three Catholic churches will remain open -- the Bazilika, the Matyas Church, and a third one.

CROWD CHEERS PRIESTS -- New York Riportok Es Hirek Magyarorszagrol, 29 Jul 50

On Sunday morning 16 July 1950, a huge crowd gathered in front of the Carmelite church in Gyor. There were about 4,000 people in the crowd and the police did not dare to show themselves. The crowd cheered the priests and shouted, "Long live the church!"

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